

CLAIMS

1. A receptacle (1) comprising an outer cup (2), an inner cup (3) nested within the outer cup, an ingredient chamber (13) located between the nested cups, and one or more apertures (14) formed in the inner cup (3) for communicating with the ingredient chamber, characterised by the inner and outer cups (2,3) being turnable relatively to one another, one or more shut-off sections (15) formed on the outer cup (2) and arranged to control flow of liquid between the inner cup (3) and the ingredient chamber (13), via the aperture(s), in response to turning of the cups relatively to one another, and at least one protuberance (24) projecting into the ingredient chamber from at least one of the cups (2,3) for squeezing and/or agitating the ingredient in the ingredient chamber in response to relative turning movement of the cups.
2. A receptacle as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ingredient chamber (13) is formed between mutually opposed bottom walls (4,5) of the outer and inner cups (2,3).
3. A receptacle as claimed in claim 2, wherein the outer and inner cups (2,3) are of circular cross-section and comprise sidewalls (6,7) extending upwardly and generally outwardly from the bottom walls (4,5).
4. A receptacle as claimed in claim 2 or 3, wherein at least one aperture (14) is formed in the bottom wall (5) of the inner cup (3), and at least one cooperating shut-off section (15) extends from the bottom wall (4) of the outer cup (2), the upper end(s) (20) of the shut-off section(s) being arranged so as to shut off flow of liquid through the aperture(s) into the ingredient chamber (13) upon alignment of the aperture(s) and said upper end(s).
5. A receptacle as claimed in claim 4, wherein the or each shut-off section is formed by a shut-off boss (15) projecting into the ingredient chamber (13) from the bottom wall (4) of the outer cup (2).
6. A receptacle as claimed in claim 2, 3, 4 or 5, wherein the or each protuberance comprises a paddle member (24) projecting downwardly into the ingredient chamber (13) from the bottom wall (5) of the inner cup (3).
7. A receptacle as claimed in claim 6, wherein the or each paddle member (24) is arranged to serve as a stop defining the fully open and fully shut-off positions of the aperture(s) (14).

8. A receptacle as claimed in any one of the preceding claims 2 to 7, wherein the or each protuberance or paddle member (24) is perforated and/or includes a bottom wall (26) or edge which slopes with respect to the bottom walls (5,4) of the cups.

5 9. A receptacle as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the or each aperture (14) comprises a perforated section having perforations sufficiently small so as substantially to prevent flow of loose ingredient from the ingredient chamber (13) into the inner cup (3).

10 10. A receptacle as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the outer and inner cups (2,3) are formed with interengaging means (9,10 and 11,12) which retains the cups in nested relationship whilst permitting them to turn relatively to one another.

11. A receptacle as claimed in claim 10, wherein the interengaging means comprises one or more annular ribs (11) on the sidewall (7) of one of the cups (3) engaging in cooperating annular grooves (12) in the sidewall (6) of the other cup (2).

12. A receptacle as claimed in claim 10 or 11, wherein the interengaging means comprises interengaging rim flanges (9,10) which depend downwardly from the lips (19,23) of the outer and inner cups (2,3) on the outsides of the cups and which are arranged to engage when the cups are assembled in nested relationship.

13. A receptacle as claimed in claim 12, wherein the interengaging rim flanges (9,10) are designed to seal the space between the rim flanges so as to alleviate leakage of liquid contents between the outer and inner cups (2,3).

25 14. A receptacle as claimed in claim 12 or 13, wherein the rim flange (10) of the inner cup (3) is formed with an inwardly projecting annular rib (27) on its inside surface and the outer cup (2) is formed with a plane downwardly directed rim flange (9) so that, when the cups are fully nested, the rim flange (10) of the inner cup resiliently engages over the outside surface of the rim flange (9) of the outer cup and the annular rib (27) snaps into engagement beneath the lower edge of the rim flange (9) of the outer cup.

30 15. A receptacle as claimed in claim 12, 13 or 14, including a lid fitted to the mouth of the receptacle and snapped into engagement with the rim flange (10) of the inner cup.

16. A receptacle as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the outer cup (2) is formed with an array of external ribs (17) which facilitate gripping of the receptacle by a user.

17. A receptacle as claimed in claim 16, wherein the outer cup (2) has a
5 plane area above and/or below the ribs (17) for enabling printing, embossing or other form of decoration to be applied to the receptacle.

18. A receptacle as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the outer and inner cups (2,3) are thermoformed from sheet plastics material.

19. A receptacle as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, including
10 an ingredient within the ingredient chamber (13), said ingredient being either in loose form or in a liquid permeable sachet or bag, for example, a tea bag.

20. A method of preparing a liquid product in a receptacle (1) comprising an inner cup (3) nested within an outer cup (2) and defining an ingredient chamber (13) therebetween, an ingredient disposed in the ingredient
15 chamber, and one or more apertures (14) formed in the inner cup (3) for permitting communication between the inner cup and the ingredient chamber (13), characterised by the steps of adding to the inner cup (3) liquid for producing the liquid product in conjunction with the ingredient, controlling admission and shut off of flow of the liquid into the ingredient chamber, via
20 the aperture(s) (14) in response to relative turning movement of the outer and inner cups (2,3), and agitating and/or squeezing the ingredient in the ingredient chamber by relatively turning the cups.

21. A method as claimed in claim 20, including the step of relatively
turning the cups to shut off flow of liquid between the ingredient chamber and
25 the inner cup when the liquid product has reached the desired strength